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Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government are prepared to advice the central banks to reduce the rate of interest?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The rates have been reduced to the extent it is possible."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" Will the Hon. Minister permit the local bodies to deposit their moneys as before?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" That is a matter for the local boards concerned to decide."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I know if the central banks advancing loans to the other banks are charging the maximum rate of interest?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I have no information."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the restrictions placed on the local bodies in the matter of placing their moneys in the district banks as deposits, are not conducive to the interests of these banks, and if so, whether the Hon. Minister will reintroduce the old system?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I do not think the restriction affects the bank's interests adversely; but there is no objection to local bodies investing their funds elsewhere."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" Will the Hon. Minister see, Sir, that the existing restrictions are taken away in the interests of the banks?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" If by taking deposits from the local bodies the central banks do not stand to lose, there can be no objection."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether there is not a Government Order which says that the local bodies should not deposit more than a particular amount in the central banks?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I am aware of it."

Registration

Extension of the photo-stat system of copying documents.

* 529 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) in how many districts the photo-taking system instead of copying the documents, has been put into operation till now in the Registration Department;

(*b*) whether the introduction of the above system of registering documents is less expensive than the present system of copying; if so, what the percentage is of saving in the districts where the system is in operation;

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(c) if it is profitable, whether the Government intend extending the same to other districts; if so, when and in what districts; and

(d) whether the Government have taken the advice of experts as to which documents, whether the manuscript copies or the photo copies, stand better the test of time?

A.—(a) The system of photo-copying of documents by the cine-camera method has been introduced in the Madras-Chingleput district and in the District Registrars' offices of East Godavari, Guntur, Salem and Coimbatore. The photo-stat method has been introduced in the South Malabar registration district.

(b) A statement [a] showing the savings effected under the cine-camera method is appended. The photo-stat system was introduced in South Malabar from 1st April 1934. The full staff to be disbanded has not been sent away. A report received from the Inspector-General says that during 1936–37 there is likely to be a saving of Rs. 7,208.

(c) There is no such proposal now under consideration. The scheme is yet in an experimental stage.

(d) The new system was introduced on the experience gained in Bombay. The photo copy is a permanent record not liable to fade with the lapse of time according to the quality of the ink used.

Land Revenue Administration

Functions of the Special Officer appointed to the Board of Revenue.

* 530 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) why a special officer has been appointed to serve under the Revenue Board; and

(b) what his functions are?

A.—No special officer has been appointed to serve under the Board of Revenue.

Proposals of the Collector of Madras-Chingleput to assign on patta lands in the Valliyur village.

* 531 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Collector of Chingleput has recently called for proposals for issue of patta to blocks of lands submerged under water (Nos. 230, 231 and 232), though the people of the Valliyur village had objected to the issue of patta and the Collector of the district had upheld their objection in 1934; and

[a] Printed as Appendix on page 1087 infra.